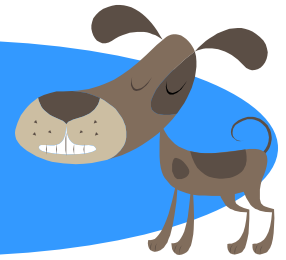


# Gimme Shelter

## News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County  
Department of  
Animal Care &  
Control



February 2010

Volume 6, Issue 2

### On Thin Ice

Many area ponds are covered in snow and ice and as temperatures begin to warm, the ice is often not thick enough to support the weight of animals. Unfortunately the animals don't know that they can't walk on the ice until it is too late.



On February 18, Animal Control received a call that five calves, each weighing between 600-700 pounds, had fallen through a frozen pond in Leesburg. When Animal Control Officers arrived, the calves were unable to get out of the frigid water and were drowning, with their heads barely sticking out of the water. The Officers, with assistance from the animals' owner and firefighters on the scene, used specialized equipment and technical animal rescue skills to pull the animals out of the water. Deputy Chief Adrienne Burton, Lead

Animal Control Officers Mark Stacks and Angela Chan, and Animal Control Officer Claudia Berrio participated in the rescue.

All five of the calves were pulled from the water. Two of the calves were able to walk to a nearby barn, while the other three had to be transported by trailer as they were too frozen to walk. A large animal veterinarian was called to the scene and performed emergency triage and care for the animals. One of the calves was pronounced dead on the scene, likely due to fluid in the lungs. The remaining four are doing well and are expected to make a full recovery.

Just one week later, on February 25, Animal Control was alerted that a dog had fallen through the ice on a pond at a property on West Loudoun Street. Round Hill Fire and Rescue personnel were already on scene when Lead Animal Control Officer Mark Stacks arrived.

Maxine, a black standard Poodle, was able to rest her head on the side of the ice but did not have enough energy to stay afloat and submerged under the water multiple times. Officer Stacks and a firefighter donned rescue vests and tied off onto safety lines to go out on the ice. The firefighter fell through the ice approximately 15 yards off of the shore. Officer Stacks attempted to assist him out of the water, and the pressure of this effort broke the ice he was standing on and he also fell through the ice into the frigid water.



Officer Stacks was able to get back out of the water and on top of the ice, crawling close enough to the dog to use a rescue pole to snag the dog's collar and pull it out of the water. After pulling the dog close he was able to crawl back to shore. Animal Control Officer Lisa Shaw then took the poodle to a nearby emergency animal hospital for evaluation. Maxine was treated for hypothermia and was later released to the care of her grateful owners, who were on the scene of the rescue. She is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery.

### No Business Like Snow Business



*Animal Control Officer Virginia Newsome trudges through waist-deep snow to ensure animals are safe*

Nearly three feet of snow didn't slow down Loudoun County Animal Care & Control! Despite the weather, Animal Control Officers responded to emergency calls and assisting pet owners who were stranded and animals that were injured.

Animal care staff also carried on despite the weather, with some staff spending the night at the Shelter to ensure that animals would be cared for. Kudos to everyone who worked hard despite the weather to ensure the animals were well cared for!



*The Animal Shelter after the storm.*

## Dog Behavior Basics

On February 26, Animal Care & Control hosted an Animal Behavior & Training seminar by noted canine behavior consultant, trainer, and author Pat Miller.

Animal care staff, customer service staff, and Animal Control Officers attended the day-long seminar, along with shelter volunteers. Staff and volunteers from other area shelters, rescues, and training clubs also participated, for a total of approximately 70 people in the class.

Attendees learned the basics of reading canine body language, including how to tell what dogs are thinking and feeling based on positions

of their eyes, ears, mouths, and tails. Ms. Miller also explained how animals think and learn, and how to use their style of learning to direct positive, science based training. She also discussed many of the myths associated with older styles of dog training, and how positive reinforcement can help dogs to maximize their potential and curb behavior issues.

The seminar was very informative and helpful to both Department staff and volunteers, and we look forward to putting the things we learned into practice to help our shelter animals.



## February Employee of the Month

### Rick Sherwood is February's Employee of the Month!

Rick is being recognized for his excellent and unselfish work during the recent snow emergencies. In addition to his work in Customer Service & Dispatch, his effort and commitment to assist staff in getting to the shelter and ensuring that the animals were cared for was commendable. His unselfish support included digging out and driving staff to the animal shelter during one of the worst snow storms ever. After arriving at the

shelter, he continued his hard work by ensuring the care and welfare of the animals. His willingness and enthusiasm to pitch-in and help as needed, especially during periods of staff shortages in the shelter, is exemplary. In addition to volunteering to assist the shelter staff, his quality of work and understanding of the care and cleaning needs of the animals housed at the shelter is outstanding. His work and effort is greatly appreciated by his co-workers and the entire Department. **Thank you Rick for all you do!**



## Congratulations Rick!

## What We're Up To

### Winnie the Pooh and ACO's too!

Animal Control Officers Virginia Newsome, Chris Brosan, and Matt Strom made a special visit to Winnie the Pooh Preschool in Ashburn this month, teaching the 4 and 5 year olds about animal safety and proper animal care. The students presented the ACOs with homemade dog biscuits and toys for dogs and cats alike. Thank you to the staff at the school for arranging the visit—we had a great time!

### Mobile Adoptions Keep Rolling

Don't forget the mobile adoption vehicle stops **every Thursday** from **3:00-7:00pm** at the **Petco** in the Dulles 28 Centre (at the intersection of Rt 28 and Waxpool Road). If you're looking for a pet, and can't make it out to Waterford, this is a great opportunity to visit! Be sure to stop by and see us!

